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Celebration of 300th Anniversary

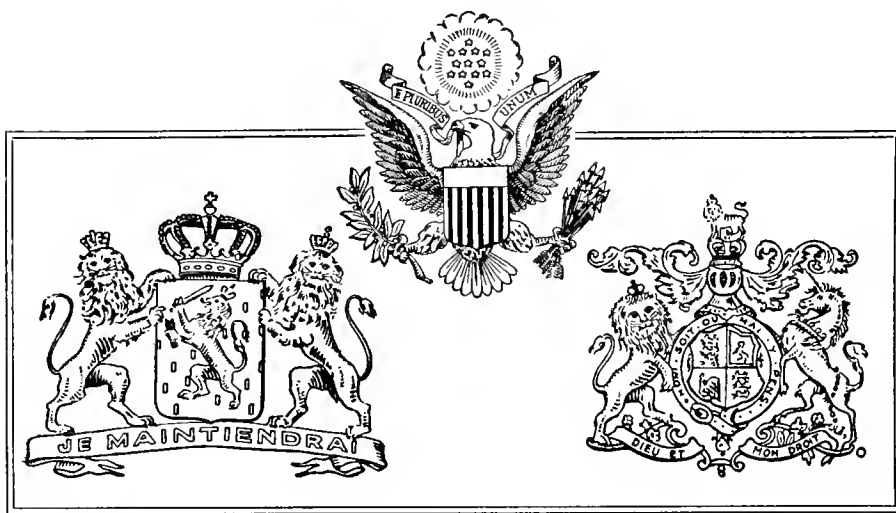


First American Legislative Assembly

and

The Signing of the Pilgrims' Mayflower Compact

—Signaling the Beginnings of
American Free Institutions



UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
THE SULGRAVE INSTITUTION AND ALLIED ORGANIZATIONS



Spencer-Pierce House, Newbury, Mass. This ancient stone house was built some time between 1635 and 1651. The bricks used in making the enclosed porch were probably brought from England.

In the Land of the Pilgrims

THE Spencer-Pierce House in Newbury, Massachusetts, was built less than thirty years after the historic landing of the Plymouth Pilgrims.

It is one of the best examples of the roomy, comfortable houses of the Pilgrim period.

From old New England homes such as this went forth that army of civilization and progress which conquered the savage wilderness of the new continent. The same courage, industry and vision which this required have made New England a land of prosperous industry.

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SIGNING THE MAYFLOW COMPACT, NOVEMBER 11, 1620

"Covenant and combine ourselves together into a Civil body
politick for our better ordering and preservation . . .
and to enacte, constitute and frame such just and equall
lawes, ordnances, Acts, constitutions and offices from time
to time as shall be thought most meete and convenient for
ye generall good of ye colonie."

It was but a few months before, on the 30th of July, 1619, that the General Assembly of Virginia was convened in the church at Jamestown at the direction of Sir Edwin Sandys. There they referred their charter to a committee for examination to find if there were "oughte not perfectly squaring with the state of this colonie, or in lawe which did presse or binde two harde."

It is these two events that England and Holland have joined with the United States in celebrating. The development of liberal thought and democratic government in America has proved a force that the boundaries of this country could not contain. England is now showing her pride in having given birth to the men who established the American Republic, and the celebrations of the Pilgrims' sailing have been as enthusiastic in the land from which they were driven as in the nation which they founded.



FIRST MEETING OF VIRGINIA ASSEMBLY, GOVERNOR YEARDLEY PRESIDING,
JULY 30, 1619

"We did it not to the ende to correcte or controll anything therein contained, but only in case we should finde ought not perfectly squaring with the state of this colonie, or in lawe which did presse or binde two harde."

The Story of the First Assembly

The first assembly that ever sat on American soil was the product of mixed motives. The father of the assembly, Sir Edwin Sandys, was one of the great English liberals, a stalwart upholder of the rights of the people, but he was also the treasurer of the Virginia Company, a commercial enterprise.

Industrial communism in Virginia had failed, as it failed in Plymouth, and Sir Edwin was moved to find a way to more plentiful production by arousing the dormant energy of the planters. That this fell in with his desire to promote self-government is true, but it is a question how far he would have been moved to change the Virginia system if the exports of tobacco and other products had been large under the communistic régime.

So the first representative government of America sprang partly from the liberal movement in England and partly from the necessity of making the settlers work.

Sir George Yeardley was sent out to the colony in 1619 to put the new form of government in operation. He found a settlement of about 400 discouraged people, planting hardly enough corn to keep them alive and producing little for the company. They were divided into four general boroughs, Henricus, Charles City, James City and Kiccowtan. These for the purposes of election were again divided into twelve election boroughs, each of which was to choose two Burgesses to sit in the General Assembly.

Soon after his arrival he issued the following proclamation, one of the most interesting documents in Colonial history:

“That all those that were resident here before the departure of Sir Thomas Dale (April, 1616), should be freed and acquitted from such publique services and labours which formerly they suffered, and that these cruel laws by which we had so long been governed were now abrogated, and that we were now to be governed by those free laws which his Majestie’s subjects live under in Englande. And that they might have a hand in the governing of themselves, it was granted that a General Assembly should be held yearly once, whereat were to be present the Governor and Counsell with two Burgesses from each plantation, freely to be elected by the inhabitants thereof; this Assembly to have power to make and ordaine whatsoever lawes and orders should by them be thought good and proffittable for our subsistence.”

Under this proclamation the boroughs elected to the first representative body in America the following men: Samuel Sharpe, Samuel Jordan, Capt. Thomas Graves, Walter Shelley, John Jefferson, Capt. John Ward, Lieut. John Gibbs, Capt. William Powell, Ensign William Spence, Thomas Paulett, Edward Gourgaing, John Boys, John Jackson, Capt. Christopher Lawne, Ensign Washer, Capt. William Ticker, and William Capps.

It is unfortunate that the records of this election are lost, for although it is certain that they were elected by means of the ballot-box, and that parties existed in the colony, details are lacking and even the date is unknown.

The Assembly met on July 30, 1619, Governor Yeardley presiding, and John Pory, member of Council, acting as speaker. Pory was a Master of Arts of Cambridge University, and ordered the proceedings of this historic occasion with despatch. They passed laws and ordinances, arranged land grants and taxes, and then adjourned, declaring:

“Our intent is to ease all the inhabitants of Virginia forever of all taxes and public burthens as much as possible.”



SULGRAVE MANOR, AND SKETCH OF SULGRAVE INSTITUTION

The Sulgrave Institution takes its name from the Sulgrave Manor, the home of George Washington's ancestors in Northamptonshire, England. This property, which includes a house, outbuildings and ten acres of land, was purchased in 1913 by a public-spirited body of English men and women as a part of the proposed celebration, in 1915, of One Hundred Years Peace Among English-speaking Peoples, following the signing of the Treaty of Ghent. This celebration, as is well known, was abandoned because of the Great War.

To show their good-will for their kindred of America, the Sulgrave estate was turned over to a Board of Trustees, composed equally of Americans and British, to be forever maintained as a place of pilgrimage for all who venerate the name of that Colonial Englishman who became the father of the American Republic, and a plan was conceived of creating ultimately a society to take up permanently the work of furthering friendship and preventing misunderstanding among English-speaking peoples and as between them and other peoples of good-will.

In carrying out this plan a resolution authorizing the creation of the Sulgrave Institution, a society to center in Sulgrave Manor, was approved at a meeting of the Trustees of Sulgrave Manor held at the American Embassy in London in March, 1914, Ambassador Walter Hines Page in the Chair.

NEW YORK EVENTS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

- 12 M. Reception to Dr. W. H. De Beaufort, Acting Minister from the Netherlands, Lord Rathcreedan, Admiral Sir William Lowther Grant, and British, Netherlands and Canadian Delegates at the City Hall.
- 3:30 P. M. Reception by Prof. Henry Fairfield Osborn and Dr. William T. Hornaday at the New York Zoological Park.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

- 1 P. M. Luncheon by the Sons of the American Revolution to British, Netherlands and Canadian Delegates at the Army and Navy Club of America.
- 7 P. M. Dinner in honor of the Delegates of Great Britain, the Netherlands and Canada to the Tercentenary Celebration of the Meeting of the First American Legislative Assembly, the Mayflower Compact, and the Landing of the Pilgrims, which mark the Beginnings of Free Institutions in America.

GEORGE W. BURLEIGH, presiding officer.

SPEAKERS

HON. BAINBRIDGE COLBY, Secretary of State
HON. ALTON B. PARKER, Chancellor of Sulgrave Institution
HON. JOHN W. DAVIS, Ambassador to the Court of St. James
GEN. JOHN J. PERSHING
SIR ARTHUR SHIPLEY
VICE-ADMIRAL HILARY R. JONES, U.S.N.
DR. A. J. BARNOUW
HON. RAOUL DANDURAND, President of the Canadian Senate

A musical program and tableaux has been arranged by Community Service, including patriotic songs of the United States and England, folk songs of the Netherlands, and a presentation of the signing of the Mayflower Compact, under the direction of Calvin W. Rice, chairman of the Committee on Arrangements.

Frederick Gunther will conduct the music and direct the tableaux, assisted by Frank Hydak at the piano, A. Campbell Weston at the organ, May Pashley Harris, dramatic director. The chorus is comprised of employees of the Federal Reserve Bank, the Liberty National Bank, the National Park Bank, the Federal Board for Vocational Training, the Western Union Telegraph Company, and Community Service.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

- 10 A. M. Sightseeing trip.
- 1 P. M. Luncheon to Delegates of Great Britain, the Netherlands and Canada by the Pilgrims of the United States, at the Ritz-Carlton, Chauncey M. Depew, president of the Pilgrims, presiding.
- 8 P. M. Mass meeting at Carnegie Hall, participated in by seventy organizations allied with Sulgrave Institution.
- JUDGE ALTON B. PARKER, Chancellor of Sulgrave Institution, presiding officer.

SPEAKERS

HON. BAINBRIDGE COLBY, Secretary of State
DR. W. H. DE BEAUFORT, Acting Minister from the Netherlands
LORD RATHCREEDAN
SIR ARTHUR SHIPLEY
HENRY ST. GEORGE TUCKER
DR. GEORGE E. VINCENT

The Community Service has arranged a musical program and tableaux, which will be given at the dinner. "The Mayflower," by Alfred Noyes, will be read by Miss Helen Harrington, assisted by Carter-Waddell, dancers. Following the speeches, there will be community singing under the leadership of Frederick Gunther, leader, and May Pashley Harris, dramatic director.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

- 10 A. M. Leave for Princeton University.
1 P. M. Luncheon at Proctor Hall, Graduate School.

NORFOLK EVENTS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5

- 10:30 A. M. Assemble at the Monticello Hotel.
11 A. M. Take special cars at Union Station for Cape Henry.
Address of welcome by Mayor.
Addresses by Chairman of Committee and City Manager.
1 P. M. Luncheon.
2 P. M. Return to Norfolk.
3 P. M. Sightseeing trip around Norfolk.
4 P. M. Parade of school children.
8 P. M. Mass meeting, followed by educational moving pictures.
Speakers: Visitors and local people at Wells Theatre.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6

- 9 A. M. Ferry and motor to Yorktown as guests of the Sons of the Revolution and Sons of the American Revolution.
2 P. M. Start to Williamsburg. Afternoon tea there at the College of William and Mary as guests of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

- 9 A. M. Boat to Jamestown.
Church service, the Rev. J. F. Peter, presiding.
Luncheon.
9 P. M. Reception at the Monticello Hotel.

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ALLIED ORGANIZATIONS TAKING PART IN CELEBRATIONS

AERO CLUB OF AMERICA	MILITARY ORDER OF FOREIGN WARS
ALDEN KINDRED OF AMERICA, THE MIDWEST CHAPTER	MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RHODES SCHOLARS	NATIONAL COUNCIL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES
AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION	NATIONAL COUNCIL JUNIOR ORDER OF UNITED AMERICAN MECHANICS
AMERICAN CIVIC ASSOCIATION	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
AMERICAN DEFENSE SOCIETY	NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR	NATIONAL SOCIETY COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA
AMERICAN MAYFLOWER COUNCIL	NATIONAL SOCIETY, DAMES OF THE LOYAL LEGION
AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION	NATIONAL SOCIETY, DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
AMERICAN SCENIC AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY	NATIONAL SOCIETY, DAUGHTERS OF FOUNDERS AND PATRIOTS OF AMERICA
AMERICAN SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY	NATIONAL SOCIETY NEW ENGLAND WOMEN
AMERICAN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION	NATIONAL SOCIETY SONS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA	NATIONAL SOCIETY UNITED STATES DAUGHTERS OF 1812
ARMY AND NAVY CLUB OF AMERICA	NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF VIRGINIA ANTIQUITIES	NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BAPTIST YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION OF AMERICA	NEW YORK STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
BETTER AMERICA MOVEMENT	OLD GUARD VETERAN BATTALION OF NEW YORK
BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW IN THE UNITED STATES	ORDER OF FOUNDERS AND PATRIOTS OF AMERICA
CITY HISTORY CLUB OF NEW YORK	PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES
COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA	SAINT ANDREW'S SOCIETY
COMMUNITY SERVICE, INC.	SAINT DAVID'S SOCIETY
DAUGHTERS OF THE CINCINNATI	SAINT GEORGE'S SOCIETY
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FIFTH AVENUE ASSOCIATION	SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS
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The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America

THE National Society of the Colonial Dames of America was organized May 19, 1892 on the basis that the thirteen original Colonial States should form a federation of women, descended from some ancestor of worthy life who came to reside in an American Colony prior to 1750 and who held an important position in the Colonial Government, and whose distinguished services contributed to the founding of our great Nation. In 1896 it was decided to admit into the National organization, societies formed by women of Colonial Ancestry residing in other than the thirteen original States and known as the non-Colonial States. Today the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America is represented by societies in forty States and the District of Columbia with a membership of 9,000. Mrs. Joseph R. Lamar is the National President.

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AND

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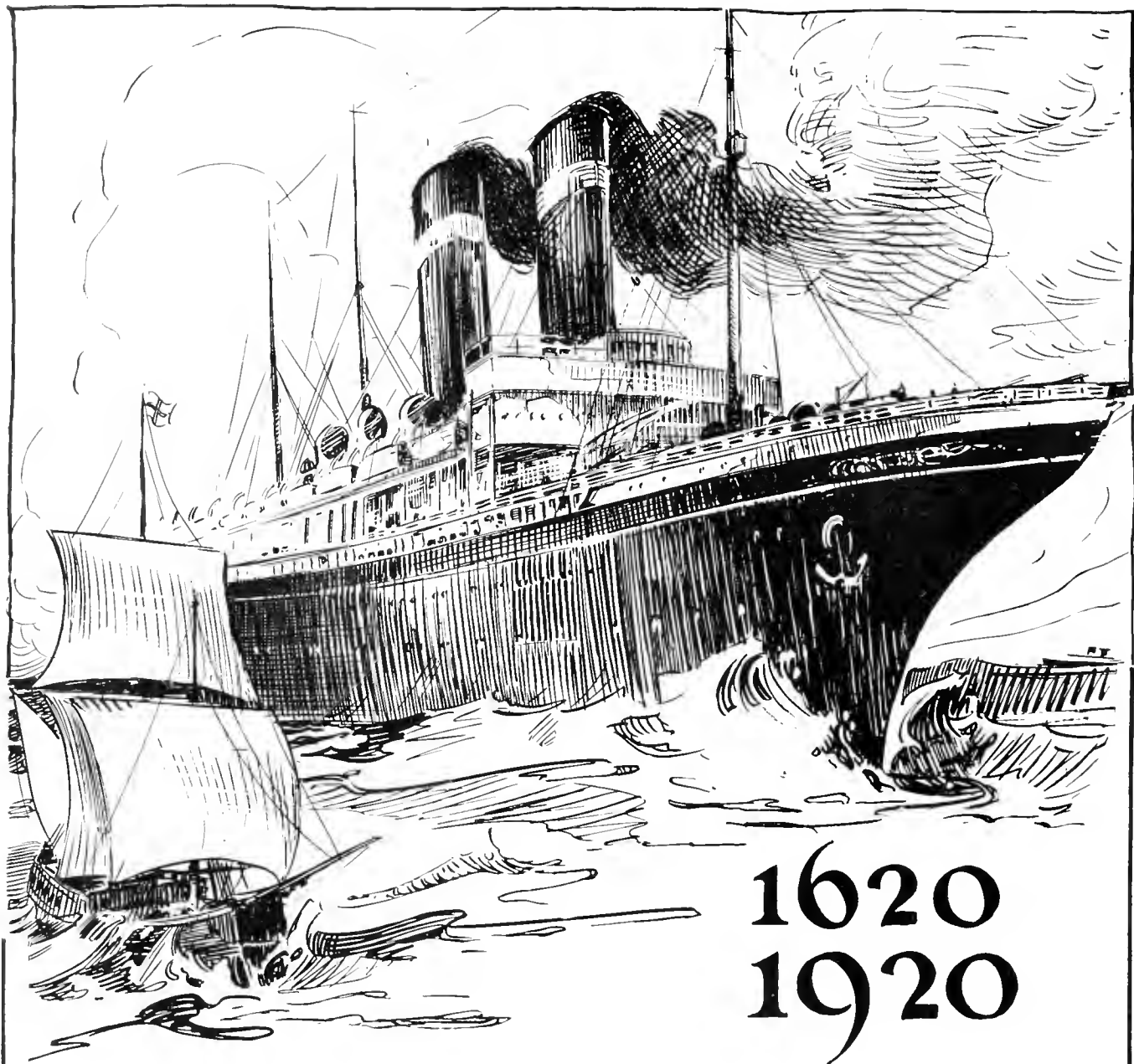
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